



AMIAA

News

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**JOHN G.
KEUHNELIAN, M.D.**

"THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST" IS THE FIRST TEMPTATION OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

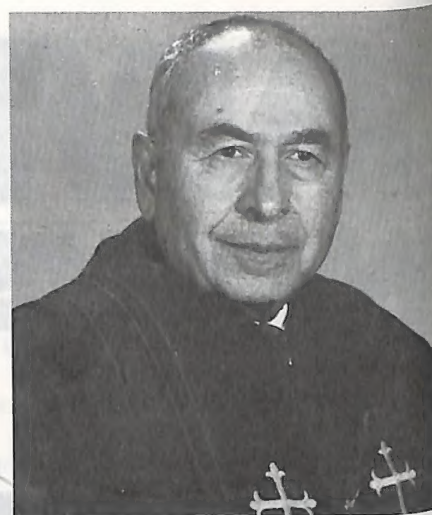
The following communication from Pastor Vartan Hartunian of the First Armenian Church in Belmont, MA, is addressed to members and friends of his church, but it can be profitably read by all the members and friends of the AMAA.

The *Religious Leaders* of His time rejected Him. The *Roman Authorities* crucified Him. And, in our time, *Universal Studios* has defamed Him by trying to make of His humanity a person of sinful tendencies. "The Last Temptation of Christ" is a blasphemous film portraying *Jesus Christ* in sexual immorality. And it is diabolically subtle because its pornographic portion is a dream-sequence which allows the producers to claim that such sexual immorality is not being attributed to *Jesus* as performance but only as temptation. The authors of this sacrilegious film seem to have forgotten what *Jesus* taught, that to look on another in lust is to commit adultery (Matthew 5:27-28). This film, so insensitive to those who revere *Jesus Christ* as Lord and Savior, is clearly an attempt to

ridicule His divinity and high moral standards. If they can get *Jesus* to tell lies, to steal, and to commit sexual acts, they will feel better in their lying, thievery, fornications and adulteries. What this film is subtly doing is telling the world that it is all right to commit sexual sins since now we know that *Jesus* married and had sex with *Mary Magdalene*, and after she is killed, he moves in with *Martha* and *Mary*, the sisters of *Lazarus*, and has sex and children from them. In short, instead of imitating *Christ*, these perverters would have *Christ* imitate sinful man.

This film is using *Jesus* as commodity. We are told that we should not judge it until we see it. And to see it will cost \$6.00 to \$10.00. And if we fall into this trap, we will enrich the producers who, in the name of freedom of speech, have cast dung on the *Son of God*.

How would our *Jewish* friends feel if we made a film showing *Hitler* as a martyr? Or a film showing *Moses* and *Aaron* in homosexual embrace? Or how would our *Black* friends feel if we glorified the *Ku Klux Klan*? Such revisionism would not and should not be tolerated. This



Rev. Vartan Hartunian

assault upon the Christian Religion, upon its central *Person*, is not really 'The Last Temptation of Christ.' It is the first temptation of the entertainment industry to sanctify pornography with the sanction of religion. And if this temptation is financially successful, we may expect a flood of such films fouling the pure air of the *Gospel of Salvation*.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN G. KEUHNELIAN, M.D. President of AMAA 1975 - 1977

John G. Keuhnelian, M.D., of Tenaflly, NJ, a Board member and former president of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), passed away on August 2, 1988, at the age of 60. He had been in ill health with leukemia for the past several years.

A memorial service was held on August 5 at the Frank A. Patti & Kenneth Mikatarian Funeral Home in Fort Lee, NJ. Funeral services took place on August 6 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church, followed by interment at the George Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in Paramus, NJ. Eulogies and testimonial messages were offered by The Rev. Karl Avakian, the officiating minister and the pastor of the Keuhnelian family; The Rev.

Moses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the AMAA; Dr. John Reckler of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center; and Mr. Edward Esayan, a cousin of Dr. Keuhnelian. Other participants in the service were The Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, Honorary Executive Director of the AMAA; soloist Maro Partamian of Tenaflly; and Ms. Ann Wallis, the organist of the Armenian Presbyterian Church. A host of family members, relatives, colleagues and friends of Dr. Keuhnelian, as well as AMAA members and Directors, attended the services, which were marked by a solemn celebration of the life and testimony of Dr. Keuhnelian.

This issue of the

dedicated to Dr. John Keuhnelian as a tribute to a person who, throughout his adult life, passionately loved the AMAA, tirelessly labored for its Christian outreach and generously gave of his talents, time and financial resources for the expansion of its mission ministry.

Dr. Keuhnelian never sought recognitions or honors during his lifetime. He was what he was, and did what he did, because of his love for Jesus Christ. That is why we believe that he is now resting in the eternal love of Jesus Christ who has rewarded his labors and lifelong Christian commitment with the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant—enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

"AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS FOR THE MAN AND HIS OWN SHARE OF CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY"

Dr. John Keuhnelian knew this was going to happen. We knew it, too. His close friends in whom he confided knew that this was coming sooner than they had previously expected. Nevertheless, we refused to think about it. We struggled to dismiss it as an awful nightmare.

I am not sure whether it was our faith in the power of prayer or our love for Dr. Keuhnelian that suppressed our awareness of the imminence of his death. Of one thing I am sure: Now that the inevitable has happened and John has parted from us, we are all experiencing that gnawing sense of loss and pain that fills our hearts when a very dear person passes from our midst.

But I believe we could do a great injustice to God who gave us John as a loving husband, a caring father, a compassionate and capable physician, a loyal friend and a dedicated supporter of Christian mission, if we only grieved, felt pain or shed tears at this solemn hour.

In a letter, dated May 2, 1978, to the Executive Director of the AMAA, Dr. Keuhnelian reflected on the funeral services for his father, Garabed Keuhnelian, and wrote the following.

"Although it was a solemn occasion, the service in many ways was almost joyous for me in that I felt it was an expression of thanks for the man and his own share of contribution to humanity. The loss of a father, regardless of his age, creates a vacancy. On the other hand, I am so grateful I had such a father for so many years and was not robbed of this experience in my youth."

These insightful words afford us the strength to look at John's death through John's own eyes and see in this sad occasion an appropriate time for thanksgiving.

John has left behind a precious testimony for which we in the AMAA are deeply thankful.

We are thankful to God for the extraordinary intelligence with which He had endowed John, who used this God-given gift to become a brilliant physician whose outstanding medical skills, compassionate



Participants in one of the first meetings of the AMAA Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dr. John Keuhnelian (standing, right).

healing services and distinguished achievements were a source of pride for the entire Armenian community. But, as a faithful steward, John also employed his outstanding mental capacity in the service of his church, missionary and community involvements. He was a good listener and a wise participant in meetings. He was very quick to grasp the basic elements of the most complex issues and problems. He remembered the details of the innumerable matters considered in our Board or committee meetings. He addressed every issue with genuine fairness and magnanimity.

We are thankful for John's distinguished leadership of the AMAA. John was, indeed, one of our most prominent leaders. He made signal contributions to the mission of the AMAA through his lifelong involvement in almost every aspect of the life and work of our Association.

In 1975, John was elected as president of the AMAA, and for two consecutive terms he provided dynamic and wise leadership. He served for many years as an active member of the Board of Directors. He was for several terms an involved vice president and assistant treasurer of the Association. He acted as the hard-working chairman or member of many AMAA committees. He was one of the pioneers of the Scholarship Program of

the AMAA. Hundreds of grateful college and university students who have benefited from this program will be living testimonies to John's genuine concern for the higher education and academic excellence of our younger generation.

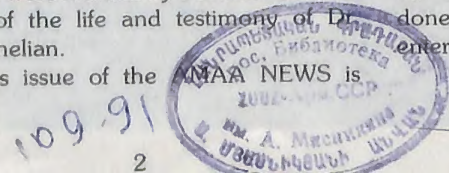
The passing of John deprives us of the fellowship of a loyal friend, a committed co-laborer in missions and a most capable leader.

In the days to come, when we convene for Board or committee meetings, there will be a vacant seat at our table, which will certainly compound our sense of loss. Nevertheless, the knowledge that the AMAA has become a vigorous and effective missionary organization because of the devotion, generosity and leadership of John will further deepen our appreciation of and gratitude for this great man and his legacy.

It is with these thoughts that, on behalf of the President, the Board of Directors, the office personnel and the entire membership of the AMAA, we extend heartfelt sympathies to our sister, Gladys; to her children, Janice, Peter and Rita; to John's mother, Marie; and to his sister, Dianne Petti.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" Job 1:21.

M.B. Janbazian,
Executive Director, AMAA



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REMEMBRANCES

JOHN KEUHNELIAN SOUNDS THE ALARM

by G.H. Chopourian

The death of a person conjures up questions. The passing of a newly born child arouses our pity; the untimely departure of a teenager confuses us; the death in a plane crash of a groom on his way to the altar raises questions on the fairness of life. The transition of a good, helpful, successful, loved adult at the peak of his professional career, as that of John, shakes us up. The untimely death of our much respected John Keuhnelian sounds the alarm for all of us to be prepared. The Scout motto, "Be Prepared," has wider implications than what it means to a Scout in training. Who could have believed that John would have left us in the "blinking of the eye?"

John! What a source of knowledge and strength you were! I was witness to them in our labors together for the Armenian Missionary Association of America for a period of a quarter century.



Dr. John Keuhnelian receiving AMAA Presidential plaque from George Philibosian.

First of all, you had a heart. I mean, a caring and a compassionate heart for family, friends and acquaintances. But that compassion crossed those natural boundaries to embrace the needs of individuals in pain and trouble. Examples abound, but the space allowed to me restricts enumeration.

You also had an unusual memory. I think of all those scholarship application folders from hundreds of students which you diligently and thoroughly studied to make your recommendation to the Scholarship Committee. Many a time I looked at you in awe over your recollection of student names and their specific problems dating years back without the benefit of review of the files. Memory, it is said, is the energized element of intelligence. We will miss your quality

input. Your comprehension of the fundamentals was fast and your actions quick and decisive.

You also amazed me by your extensive knowledge of church procedures and christian theology. These days there is a special emphasis on "The Ministry of the Laity." In the Greek, ministry and laity are translated as *diakonia* (service) and *laos* (people). The service of the people of God. You needed no training in the importance of the laity in the life of the church—in the importance of lay persons serving the church and God's children. Your commitment to the Armenian Presbyterian Church is a permanent testimony to that.

Peace be with you John.

Yeprouhie and I will miss you, but will always remember that one moment in our house a few months after my retirement when, with moistened eyes, you told Yeprouhie you would miss us very much. With tears in our eyes we now tell the world we will miss you badly but will stand tall in pride for having known and worked with you.

WE LOST A PART OF OURSELVES

by Nazar Y. Daghljan

"How often are we to die before we go quite off this stage? In every friend we lost a part of ourselves, and the best part." That is how Alexander Pope felt upon hearing the news of his friend Johathan Swift's death. A sense of voidness, emptiness and loss of a part of myself overwhelmed me when I heard the sad news of the passing away of Dr. John Keuhnelian.

In my mind I went back to 1971, the Annual Meeting in Detroit. My three-year term as president of the AMAA was ending and I had decided not to accept a fourth term for the good of the Association. George Philibosian and I, after consulting other Board members, had reached the conclusion that John would be an excellent candidate for the presidency. We met John in my hotel room and tried to persuade him to accept this honor. We argued that he was the right man with sufficient background, that how pleased his father, the treasurer of the AMAA for many years, would be, and that he was highly qualified. While any person would have seized the opportunity and the offer, John was firm in his attitude. He declined, stating that he was not ready yet and because of his professional duties he could not do justice to the position. John's greatness in his humility impressed me there and then.

In 1975 he was finally persuaded to accept the presidency and he served for two consecutive terms. He was very efficient, meticulous, thorough and scientifically systematic in various positions he held. The scholarship program owes him a great deal. John was at times terse, but he was also humorous and he always faced problems in a realistic, down-to-earth manner. But underneath all these, deep down, he



Dr. John Keuhnelian congratulating AMAA scholarship recipients.

was a true, concerned, dedicated and mission-minded christian.

He always attended meetings, whenever his medical responsibilities allowed him, sitting at the back of the room, but he was in the forefront whenever a serious problem had to be discussed.

We shall all miss John. The Armenian Evangelical Movement has lost a solid, devoted and true practicing christian. We thank God for his life on earth and pray that his memory will inspire others.

AN INCREDIBLE MAN . . . A COMPLETE MAN

by George Philibosian

It is perhaps the kind of unimaginable departure of a great person and an exceptional friend from our midst that forces us to believe in the certitude of a better world beyond . . .

Indeed, since we are so helpless to fathom the mysteries surrounding our existence, it is only our faith in a better world somewhere that can convince us to resign to the idea that John Keuhnelian is no more with us.

DR. JOHN G. KEUHNELIAN A Biographical Sketch

Dr. John Keuhnelian was born to Garabed and Marie Keuhnelian in Weehawken, New Jersey, on September 15, 1927. He was a 1947 graduate of Princeton University, Summa Cum Laude, and a 1950 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

John Keuhnelian and Gladys Hekimian were united in marriage on November 9, 1952. Their union was blessed with three children: Janice, Peter and Rita.

Dr. Keuhnelian was an attending urologic surgeon at New York Hospital and at Lenox Hill Hospital. He also had a private practice in New York City. He was a clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at Cornell University Medical College and had contributed numerous articles to medical journals. He was the author of "Urologic Nursing," a manual of nursing care for urologic cases.

Dr. Keuhnelian held various important positions in medical organizations. He had been a member of the Executive Committee of the American Urological Association since 1986 and was president of its New York section from 1984 to 1985. He had served as chairman of the urological section of the New York Academy of Medicine from 1972 to 1973, and was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. His other involvements in professional organizations included memberships in the New York Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Societe Internationale D'Urologies and the Pan American Medical Association.

Dr. John was very active in the Armenian

Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. His extraordinary loyalty and love for his Church helped him serve devotedly. He distinguished himself as a ruling Elder for numerous terms. At the time of his death he was serving as a ruling Elder, Chairman of the Music Committee, Chairman of the 90th Anniversary Committee, and member of the Church Building Committee and the Church Investment Committee.

Dr. Keuhnelian was also active in the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). He was president of the AMAA for two consecutive terms, in 1975 and 1976. He had served the AMAA as a Board member and as chairman or member of many committees. He had a pivotal role in the establishment and continuance of the Scholarship Program of the Association, which he chaired until his untimely death on August 2, 1988.

Dr. Keuhnelian was a christian statesman who possessed the spiritual insight, clear vision and unique abilities of a true leader. He was a true genius with an incredible knowledge of and appreciation for medicine, music, history, art and theology. He had a sharp sense of humor and a quick wit. He was a man of deep faith, genuine compassion and faithful christian stewardship.

Dr. Keuhnelian is survived by his wife Gladys; children, Janice, Peter and Rita; mother, Mrs. Marie Keuhnelian; and sister, Dianne Petti.

Submitted by Rev. Karl Avakian

I have known John since the early fifties. Starting with my first involvement with the Armenian Presbyterian Church life, following since with years in the Armenian Missionary Association of America, our lives were somehow intertwined in a long series of activities throughout those years.

John was an incredible man — a complete man. A man of exceptional intelligence and vast cultural background in art, music and literature. Equally, was he endowed with an unusually sharp and practical mind, and an outstanding sense of leadership.

Quiet, unassuming, ever ready to help the ill and the underprivileged in most unostentatious ways, he gave more than many of us of his time and ability to serve his church and his community. His typical Sunday morning schedule illustrates the sense of dedication this man was imbued with. Up at six in the morning, rush to the hospital, see and comfort one by one his patients and still be on time for singing in the church choir . . .

Even though a native American, he was one of those rare and valuable human bridges between our old people born overseas and our young people born in America. There was no topic or issue in this world that one could not cover, more than on surface, with this unique man.

A serious, no-nonsense facade would consistently hide the warmest, softest, readiest soul on earth to extend a helping hand, be it through his rare medical skill, personal advice or a generous pocketbook.

His unadulterated religiousness was always present, not only in his church life, but in his home and profession, and through his entire community existence.

Thus, no wonder that we are still in a helpless mood of consternation since he had so much yet to offer to his family, community and his patients; but he had to go nevertheless.

We will always miss him, unable to cease questioning, "why John? who so early?"

We bow then our hearts and souls in memory of this heroic man who during at least the last two years of his life, and in spite of his incredible sufferings, tried so faithfully to carry his cross with that unique sense of dignity and God-given grace, characteristic of him alone.

THE BELLS TOLLED . . .

by Archie Cherkezian

"Now cracks a noble Heart. Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angel's sing thee to thy rest." (Hamlet V - Shakespeare)

John H. Keuhnelian, M.D., human being extraordinaire, has left his earthly loved ones to join his celestial loved ones. His departure leaves an ache in the hearts of all who had the opportunity to know him.

John was a man of all seasons, multifaceted, with a passionate desire and curiosity of all things in God's world. He had a love for his profession, his AMAA, his church, his music, his photography and his people.



One of the last public appearances of Dr. John Keuhnelian — Ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the expansion of the Armenian Presbyterian Church building in Paramus, NJ.

"Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." (Donne)

The bells tolled for his wife, Gladys, his children, mother and sister.

The bells tolled for the AMAA . . .

I personally cannot recall a moment in my history with the AMAA when John's presence was not there. His smiling face, his calmness, his objective analysis, his steadying hand at the AMAA helm was in large part responsible for the growth of the organization. As President, Vice President, Committee Chairman, Board of Directors and Executive Committee member, he was an integral part of the firm foundation which catapulted this Missionary Association into levels of charitable causes and endeavors previously undreamt of.

The bells tolled for the Medical profession.

James Bryce, at a dinner given for General Gorgas, the medical hero of the Panama canal, in March of 1914, stated "Medicine is the only profession that labors incessantly to destroy the reason for its existence", Dr. John was a physician of the highest integrity and credence, enjoying the respect of his peers, honored for his expertise. If he had his way, there would not have been a germ remaining on this planet.

His Christian morality was underscored by his refusal to charge the ill and infirmed who could not afford to pay him. He was a true protoge of Hippocrates.

The bells tolled for our Churches.

For John so loved his church, that throughout his life, he gave his time, efforts and monies, that whosoever believeth in the Christ's Church would work unstintingly for the expansion of the Kingdom of God. But John did it with humbleness, wisdom and without the arrogance or pride.

But most of all, the bells tolled for thee; you and me, and we weep for we have lost a part of ourselves.

He now belongs to the ages.

JOHN G. KEUHNELIAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Keuhnelian Family has indicated that in lieu of flowers or other expressions of respect and affection in remembrance of Dr. John Keuhnelian, donations be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and/or the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.

All such contributions received by the AMAA will be added to a generous endowment fund established by

Dr. Keuhnelian in his will. Since he was deeply interested in the higher education of needy students, the income from this fund will be used for the Scholarship Program of the AMAA.

This fund will be a living memorial to Dr. John Keuhnelian and will help continue in his name the good work of the AMAA Scholarship Program which he cherished and fostered for so many years.

47TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF UAECNE

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) held its 47th Annual Convention on July 3-6, 1988 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ainjar, Lebanon. Participants in the Convention included 11 ordained ministers, six licensed preachers, 25 delegates and 45 guests and honorary members representing the Armenian Evangelical churches, institutions and organizations of Greece, Lebanon and Syria. Absent were the representatives of the churches in Egypt, Iran and Turkey.

The theme of the Convention, "Hold Fast What You Have" (Rev. 3:11) underscored the importance of preserving the heritage of the Armenian Evangelical Movement and the imperative of focusing on its mission. Noteworthy among the Convention-related activities were the lectures and panel discussions led by the young pastors of UAECNE.

Years of political turmoil and economic crisis in the Near East have adversely affected the entire population of the region, including the Armenian community. However, thanks to the sacrificial labors of our pastors and lay leaders, our churches and institutions have undauntedly continued their mission, demonstrating admirable signs of faithfulness and courage.

The UAECNE is a major partner in the missionary outreach of the AMAA. Its jurisdiction extends over seven countries in the Middle East where Armenian Evangelicals maintain 27 churches, 11 elementary and six high schools, the Haigazian College, four medical and dental clinics, two Christian camps, several social service centers and a number of interdenominational institutions and service



Participants in the 47th Annual Convention of UAECNE (Ainjar, Lebanon). churches, schools and mission programs of the UAECNE so that they can continue their vital ministry to our people in the region.

THE NEAR EAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Near East School of Theology (NEST) held its commencement ceremonies on June 26, 1988, and conferred four Master of Divinity, one Master of Arts in Christian Education, one Diploma in Theology and three Bachelor of Theology degrees.

Among the nine graduates were three students in the care of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE): Mr. Bishara Near East (M. Div.) and his wife, Mousaoghly (M. Div.) and his wife, Houry (B.A. in Christian Education) and Mr. Harout Salim (B. Th.), all three of whom have since accepted calls to pastorates in their native Syria. The

Mousaoghly are serving as Assistant Directors of the Church of Christ Mission Center in Aleppo and Mr. Selim is serving as the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kessab. The commencement was highlighted by the conferral of an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on Rev. Hovhannes N. Karjian, President of UAECNE. Rev. Karjian, Vice Chairman and longtime member of the Board of Managers of NEST, was recognized for his many and outstanding services to the seminary community and to the Christian churches in the Middle East.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS ON HIS VISIT WITH MISSION PARTNERS IN EUROPE

On May 13, 1988, I traveled to Europe for a fifteen-day visit with the AMAA's mission partners in France, Belgium and Greece. The visit was in response to a Board resolution, prompted by an invitation received from the Armenian Evangelical Union of France (AEU-F), to attend the 58th Annual Synod of the Armenian Evangelical churches in France. The purpose of the visit was to get personally acquainted with the leaders, the life, the work, the challenges and the aspirations of our mission partners in those countries.

FRANCE

My four day visit to France included meetings and other activities in Valence, Marseille and Lyon.

The 58th Annual Synod of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France (AEU-F) took place in Valence. Participants included six pastors and about 40 laymen representing all 14 churches of AEU-F.

Apart from the meetings, discussions and resolutions, the highlight of the Synod was the performance of the "Genatz" (eternal life), a christian musical band of six talented youth from Damascus, Syria. The director of the band is Serop Seropian, a young man whose life was saved several years ago when the AMAA provided for his kidney transplant and medical care in the United States. The band generated much excitement and inspiration everywhere. Serop complemented each performance with a moving testimony acknowledging God's grace and AMAA's role in his physical and spiritual salvation.

In Marseille, I met with The Rev. Jean Daniel Sahagian, President of AEU-F, to discuss the needs of the churches in France as well as the upcoming Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) meeting. Specifically, we agreed to ship a large quantity of Armenian Bibles to AEU-F and Rev. Sahagian pledged to have the AMAA Child Education Sponsorship Program adopted and promoted by the AEU-F.



Members of the Central Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France (AEUF).

I took the opportunity to visit the La Fontanelle summer camp—about five hours from Marseille—with Rev. Jacques Tchoghanjian and the camp director, Dr. Hagop Kerimian. The camp lies on 60 forested acres on a hillside. It is used about 70 days a year for various child, youth and adult camp programs, accommodating about 120 people at a time. Its programs stress our Armenian heritage and evangelism. Since the camp is operated by volunteers, it manages to meet its operational expenses through its modest fees. The camp is certainly one of the most exciting, involved and fruitful ministries of the AEU-F.

In Lyon I conferred with some of the leaders of the AEU-F: Mr. Pascal Nigoghossian, Treasurer of AEU-F; Rev. Jean Agopian, Chairman of AEU-F Mission Committee; Mr. Boros Halladjian, Chairman of the La Source Camp Association; and Dr. Ari Topouzkhianian, Editor of *Panpere*. Discussions included such topics as the importance of AMAA/AEU-F joint efforts to start mission outreach programs in the Armenian communities of Belgium, Holland and Germany; the needs of the La Source Camp; Mr. Sarkis Pasaoglu and our joint sponsorship of his training and christian work in Belgium.

Discussions with Dr. Topouzkhianian included a number of items. We agreed about the establishment of an AMAA

Memorial Endowment Fund in remembrance of The Rev. Samuel Bakalian, the late editor of *Panpere*; the provision of all past issues of *Panpere* to the AMAA library; and Dr. Topouzkhianian's report on his recent visit to Yerevan, Armenia. *Panpere* is another fruitful ministry of AEU-F. It is published on a small budget (the editor serves without pay), and mailed to more than 2,800 Armenian readers in 44 countries.

I also visited, in the company of The Rev. Jean Agopian and Mr. Boros Halladjian, La Source Camp in Thollon, a summer and winter resort in the French Alps about 140 miles east of Lyon. The camp has three buildings on about two acres. Its capacity is 120 people at a time. Camp programs include summer and winter activities attended by children, youth, couples and families of both Evangelical and non-Evangelical backgrounds. The camp is used about 130 days each year. Since the camp is managed by volunteers, operational costs are modest.

AEU-F has six active ordained ministers and 14 churches. Average attendance at the services of these churches ranges from 25 to 130. Most of the church buildings are old and need renovation. Others have been renovated with significant financial assistance from the AMAA. Each pastor serves two churches, and, in some cases, renders pastoral ministry to Armenian Evangelical mission centers in neighboring towns. Their homes, facilities and furnishings are modest. They have almost no office equipment. Each pastor leads a different aspect of the overall program of AEU-F: Rev. Jean Daniel Sahagian of Marseille is Moderator and "Minister of Exterior Affairs" of the AEU-F; Rev. Jacques Tchoghanjian of Marseille is involved in La Fontanelle camp activities; The Rev. Gilbert Levonian of Valence oversees the publication of AEU-F's Christian calendars (in Armenian and French) and coordinates the Armenian heritage programs of AEU-F; Rev. Jean Agopian of Lyon is in charge of the missionary endeavors of the Union; Rev. Joel Mikaelian of Alfortville is the editor of *La Lumignon*, a publication for young people; Rev. Rene Levonian of Issy-les-Moulineaux represents the Union in government-related matters and in French-Protestant ecumenical circles. All but two of the six pastors are young men. All of them were born and raised in France and have learned the Armenian language after their conversion and subsequent decision to enter into Christian ministry. They lead their worship services and preach in both Armenian and French. Each church has an active Sunday school, a Wednesday program for children and adolescents, a youth group, a women's group and a radio program. The number of active youth of all churches totals 190, or an average of 14 youths per church. The Union has five theological students under its care.



Participants in the 58th Annual Synod of AEU-France

I was deeply impressed by the dedicated work of our pastors in France, who are involved in many and varied Christian ministries through which they strive to serve our people. Churches in France have faithfully kept their Armenian identities and evangelical zeal. They are small in numbers, but have the potential to grow in membership as well as in their vital ministry.

BELGIUM

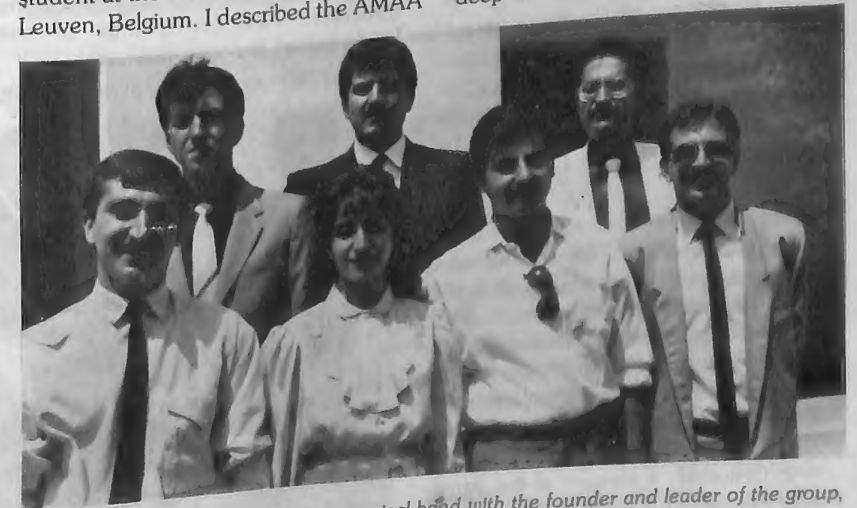
My visit to Belgium was brief, only two days devoted primarily to the following:

1. A visit with our newly sponsored pastoral candidate and missionary, Mr. Sarkis Pasaoglu. He is a dedicated and enthusiastic christian young man. He has a clear vision of his christian work among the Armenian immigrants from his native Turkey. He speaks little Armenian, but his French is fair and constantly improving. In June, he completed his first term as a student at the Institute Biblique Belge in Leuven, Belgium. I described the AMAA

to him and affirmed our commitment to support his training and christian work. We reiterated our mutual understanding that he will acknowledge the guidance of the Missions Committee of AEU-F in his training as well as in his activities.

2. A conference with the director of Institute Biblique Belge, Mr. Alain Lombot, who, with Mr. Pasaoglu, met me at the airport in Brussels. Our discussions focused on Mr. Sarkis Pasaoglu and AMAA's missionary interests in Brussels.

3. A prayer meeting at the home of Vartivar and Baidzar Kum, a young christian couple. Attendance was more than 30—children, young couples, elderly people, all recent immigrants from Turkey. It was a very moving experience for me. There were only four chairs in the home, so most of us, including myself, sat on the floor. Their spirit-filled prayers and songs (all in Turkish) evidenced their deep faith and the genuineness of their



Members of the "Genatz" Christian musical band with the founder and leader of the group, Serop Seropian (upper right).

religious feeling. I shared a meditation in Armenian that was translated into Turkish. I assured them of AMAA's love for them and our commitment to help them organize a viable and growing christian group in Brussels. They expressed a genuine desire to have more frequent visitors to their group.

4. Visit with Mr. and Mrs. John Abadjian of Brussels, an Evangelical couple, originally from Lebanon. Mr. Abadjian is a very successful diamond merchant and an extremely generous person. Mr. and Mrs. Abadjian have contributed munificently to religious and industrial projects in Armenia, to the Catholicosate of Cilicia and to the Armenian Evangelical Union of France. I enjoyed a memorable evening with the couple in the company of Mr. Zareh Kalfayan,



Mr. Zareh Kalfayan and Rev. M.B. Janbazian with renowned Benefactors Mr. and Mrs. John Abadjian of Brussels, Belgium.

present. The entire service was in Armenian. The church has a congregation of about 25 families and about 40 members. The building itself is a very old and large structure badly in need of renovation.

The Kokkinia church building is on a large property which includes another building currently used as a parsonage and a kindergarten. The number of children attending the kindergarten is 35, the majority being children of immigrant/displaced families from Iran, Lebanon and Syria. Since these children are not accepted by any other public or Armenian schools, the church, in effect, is rendering a vital service to expatriate families by accepting their children into the kindergarten program. Without this service, these children would spend their time in public parks or cramped living quarters. The furnishings of the kindergarten are very modest.

The pastor of the church is The Rev.

Mher Khachigian, who, upon the encouragement and financial support of the AMAA, began his ministry there in September, 1987. He is originally from Beirut, Lebanon, and has served in Armenian Evangelical churches in Syria. He is married and has two children, ages four and one. His wife is in charge of the kindergarten. Both Rev. Khachigian and his wife, Kohar, are young, energetic and dedicated christian workers. As they have recently come to Greece, they are going through a challenging period of adjustment in their new environment and ministry.

3. Preaching at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Derghouty. The Derghouty church has a very small congregation of around 15 families and 25 members. The church building is a fairly new structure which also houses several shops that are leased to local businesses. The income helps balance the church



Sarkis Pasaoglu (standing) with Mr. Alain Lombot, Director of Institute Biblique Belge.

another prominent Evangelical businessman in Brussels. The Abadjians graciously donated \$25,000 to the AMAA as an expression of their appreciation for the worldwide missionary outreach of the Association.

GREECE

My visit to Athens, Greece, included meetings, conferences and worship services, the main ones being:

1. A meeting with the leaders of the Armenian Evangelical community, about 35 people, during a reception hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Hovig Demirjian at their home.

2. Delivering a sermon at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Kokkinia. Attendance was about 35, with few children



Participants in a prayer meeting led by AMAA worker, Mr. Sarkis Pasaoglu (Brussels, Belgium).

budget. Attendance at the church service was well over 100, mostly immigrant Armenians from Iran, Lebanon and Syria. Sunday School children, about 25 of them, took part in the service with songs and recitations. The most memorable experience was the spontaneous donation of gifts given to me for the work of the Association by five elderly members of the church. Following the service, I met with the recently organized church youth group.

4. A meeting with the Trustees of the Armenian Evangelical Union of Greece. The Union is the owner of the Kokkinia and Derghouty churches and is incorporated with the Greek government as a religious organization. The main discussion was on the real estate properties of the Union.

5. Meeting with the Councils of the churches of Derghouty and Kokkinia. The discussion at the meeting focused on refugee matters, the school, the needs of the church and the importance of exchanging visits more frequently. The most urgent needs identified in the meeting related to the school; the sports field and playground; the renovation of the Kokkinia church building; and refugee/immigrant needs.

6. Visit with Counselor on Immigration Matters of the Canadian Embassy, Mr. John Holm, and Director of Refugee Services of World Council of Churches, Ms. Mary A. Botas.

There is a very large Armenian immigrant population in Greece. The war in Iran, the civil strife in Lebanon and the economic crisis in Syria are pushing hundreds of Armenians, especially young men, into Greece. The lucky ones receive a favorable response, after waiting a year or more, to their applications for refugee or immigrant status. Many, especially those from Lebanon and Syria, are rejected. Their employment in Greece is illegal. Those who work are under constant fear of being caught and sent back to their countries of origin. Many families band together and live in cramped apartments to save on rent. They urgently need help, and Armenian organizations in North America and other countries will do well to render assistance in whatever way they can.

Thanks to the influx of Armenian im-



Rev. M.B. Janbazian with the Deacons and Board of Trustees of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Greece.



Part of the congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Derghouty (Athens, Greece)

migrants from the Middle East, as well as to the leadership of Rev. Khachigian and devoted laypersons, the Armenian Evangelical churches in Greece are going through a period of revitalization in their life and ministry. The dedicated efforts of the local leadership should be wholeheartedly supported. Their ministry is mission in the true sense of the word.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

This trip gave me a special opportunity to have informative meetings with our mission partners in France, Belgium and Greece; to get personally acquainted with our leadership in those countries; to learn about the life situations in which our colleagues carry on their ministries; and to

be inspired by moving and humbling experiences, such as visiting the homes of pastors in France; worshipping with Armenian refugees in Brussels; receiving elderly (and far from wealthy) couples' generous gifts for the AMAA; and witnessing the dedication and strivings of our pastors, lay leaders and people. The knowledge and insights gained through my experiences during this trip will certainly help us to better understand our mission field and its challenges and further strengthen our mission partnership with our colleagues in Europe.

M.B. Janbazian,
Executive Director, AMAA



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Բացառիկ եռուկեռ մը կար Սիտնիի օգնականին մէջ, 19 Օգոստոս, Ուրբաթ առտու: Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիի զաւակներէն ստուար խումբ մը հաւաքուած էր ծաղկեփունջերով ու ողջագործումով դիմաւորելու իրենց նոր Հովիւը՝ Վեր. Տոբթ. Յովհաննէս Գարճեանը, որ կը հասնէր Պէյրուսէն՝ Երէցկին Ռեբեկայի եւ որդի Տաթեւին հետ:

Հովիւը առաջնորդուեցաւ ուղղակի եկեղեցի եւ կարճ պաշտամունքէ մը ետք, ներկաները հիւրասիրուեցան Տիկնանց Միութեան անդամներուն կողմէ:

Յաջորդ օր, 20 Օգոստոս Շաբաթ իրիկուն, տեղի ունեցաւ ճաշկերոյթ մը աւելի քան 100 հոգիներու ներկայութեամբ: Յայտագիրին վրայ էին մանուկները, պատանիները, երիտասարդները, ինչպէս նաեւ եկեղեցիին ղեկավարները: Բացման եւ փակման խօսքը կատարեց Պրն. Յակոբ Ճամպազեան, որ նաեւ վարեց յայտագիրը: Հովիւին եւ երեցկիին շնորհակալութեան ու ողջոյնի խօսքէն ետք, հաւաքոյթը փակուեցաւ Առաքելական Օրհնութեամբ:

Ստեղծուած խանդավառ մթնոլորտին մէջ, տեղոյն վրայ եղան ինքնաբերական նուէրներ եկեղեցիին շինութեան հիմնադրամին համար:

ԳՈՆԱԲԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՊԱՇՏԱՄՈՒՆՔ

Օգոստոս 21-ի կիրակնօրեայ պաշտամունքը, զոր վարեց Տիար Յակոբ Ճամպազեան, Սիտնիի Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիին համար եղաւ գոհաբանական յիշատակելի

դէպք մը, ներկայութեամբ եկեղեցիին նոր Հովիւին՝ Վեր. Յովհաննէս Գարճեանի, որ մատուց պատգամ Աստուծոյ Խօսքէն, բնաբան ունենալով Ա. Կոր. Բ.6 համարը. «Ես տնկեցի, Ապողոս ջուր տուաւ, Աստուած աճեցուց»: Բաժին վերցուցին նաեւ եղբայրներ Արթ. Գուլումճեան եւ Պաղտասար Գալանտէրեան, որոնք վերջին տարիներուն լեցուցին եկեղեցիին թափուր բեմը, մեծ հաւատարմութեամբ հոգեւոր սնունդ հայթաթելով հաւատացեալներուն:

ՊԱՇՏՈՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆՌԻՊՈՒՄՆԵՐ

Եկեղեցիին, Հովիւը՝ Վեր. Գարճեան եւ ժողովականները պատուուած զգացին, երբ 30 Օգոստոս, Երեքշաբթի իրիկուն ժամը 7:00-ի եւ 9:00-ի միջեւ, ընդունեցին այցելութիւնը Սիտնիի հայ գաղութին եկեղեցական, ազգային, բարեսիրական, կրթական եւ մշակութային հաստատութիւններու ղեկավարներուն:

Սիտնիի Հայ Աւետ. համայնքը նոյնպէս պատուուեցաւ Աւստրալիահայ Ընկերակցութեան Վարչութեան կողմէ, երբ Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիին Հովիւը, վարչութիւնը եւ տարբեր կազմակերպութիւններուն առաջնորդները հիւրասիրուեցան Հայ Կեդրոնի սրահին մէջ, 31 Օգոստոս, Զորեքշաբթի իրիկուն եւ փոխանակեցին բարեկամական ջերմ խօսքեր, գործակցութեան հաւաստիքով:

—Լրատու Սիտնիի Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիի

ԳՆԱԽԱՏԱՆՔԻ ՀԱՄԱՔՈՅԹ ՄՐ

Երկուշաբթի 11 Յուլիս 1988-ին, Տէր եւ Տիկին Յարութ Ներսէսեան, Մոնթրէալի իրենց բնակարանին մէջ, յատուկ հաւաքոյթով մը պատուեցին իրենց մայրը՝ Տիկին Ալիս Ներսէսեան, անոր տարեդարձին առիթով: Շրջանի հոգեւոր քոյրերէն եւ Ներսէսեաններու բարեկամներէն կոկիկ խումբ մը մասնակցեցաւ հաւաքոյթին, որուն ներկայ էին նաեւ Տիկին Ներսէսեանի հարազատներէն՝ Տէր եւ Տիկ. Էտվար Շնորհօքեան Նիւ Եորքէն, ինչպէս նաեւ Տէր եւ Տիկ. Յովէլ Շնորհօքեան Փարիզէն: Ներկայները վայելեցին հոգեւոր հաղորդակցութեան հաճելի եւ շինիչ պահ մը: Տեղի ունեցաւ պատշաճ հիւրասիրութիւն եւ եղան աղօթքներ ու բարեմաղթութիւններ: Տրուեցան նաեւ բարի վկայութիւններ Տիկ. Ներսէսեանի հոգեւոր կեանքին, նուիրումին ու ծառայութիւններուն մասին: Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիին մէջ կատարած իր գործունէ ծառայութեան կողքին, Տիկ. Ներսէսեան անցնող եօթը տարիներուն ամէն երկուշաբթի օրեր իր բնակարանին մէջ կազմակերպած է Սուրբ Գրիգորի սերտողութեան ու աղօթքի պահեր, որոնք մեծապէս օգտակար ու օրհնաբեր եղած են բոլոր մասնակցող տիկիներուն: Տիկ. Ներսէսեան, հաւաքոյթին առիթով իրեն տրուած նիւթական նուէրներուն արժէքը յատկացուց Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան չքաւոր անհատներու եւ ընտանիքներու համար գործածուելու: Գեղեցիկ ժեսթ, որուն համար շնորհակալութիւններ եւ շնորհակալութիւն Տիկ. Ներսէսեանի:

Տէր եւ Տիկ. Յարութ Ներսէսեան իրենց մօր՝ Տիկ. Ալիս Ներսէսեանի հետ:



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OBITUARIES

GLADYS HACHIAN



Mrs. Gladys Hachian with her surviving husband, Rev. Nushan K. Hachian.

Gladys Hachian, nee Najarian, was born on June 8, 1901, in Providence, Rhode Island, the daughter of Moses and Nonig (nee Sahagian) Najarian. She had 2 older siblings, Mary and Elizabeth, and 2 younger, George and Alice. Her father was a truck farmer, raising a variety of produce on their land in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. She received her schooling there, and received her teachers training at normal school. Then she worked as a teacher in the Rehoboth school system, and showed her aptitude by becoming principal of the Pleasant Street School there for 23 years. Early on she developed a love for children, and although she was unable to have any, family was always important to her. When her father died, she and her sister Alice kept the farm going, with Gladys driving the truck filled with their produce to market during the summers, while still carrying on as principal.

The Najarian family attended the Arm. Evangelical Euphrates Church in Providence, RI, where Gladys was a soloist for eight years. It was there that she met and married her former pastor, Rev. Nushan Hachian, in 1945. The newlyweds departed for California, where Badveli was already serving. Gladys drove them across the United States, no mean feat in those days. En route they stopped in a motel for the night, leaving the car full of their wedding gifts. In the morning they realized that they had left the car unlocked, and when they looked outside, they saw that not a thing had been disturbed! It was a providential sign of a blessed ministry ahead for them. They came to San Francisco where Gladys worked for AETNA Insurance Co. for 18 years. They served 9 years at Bethel and 9 years at Calvary Armenian Evangelical churches. They were known and loved throughout the Armenian community, and gave of themselves will-

ingly in God's service. As partners in life and work they shared hopes, dreams and prayers together, until the Lord called Gladys home on Sunday, July 24, 1988.

Gladys was a member of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco. She was also a member of the Eastern Star, Rehoboth, Mass., Chapter 208, for nearly 60 years, and for 28 years a member of the Araksi chapter of the Daughters of Vartan in San Francisco. Her legacy is that of a dedicated member of her society and church, sharing her perception, encouragement and affection with those around her. She will be sorely missed by her surviving sister Alice Najarian of Rehoboth, Mass., nephew Howard Garabedian and family of Westmont, New Jersey, and many loving friends and former parishioners. Most of all she will be missed by her grieving husband, Rev. Nushan Hachian of San Francisco. Gladys believed in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and He has welcomed her into eternity.

MERIN NORIAN YESAYIAN

Merin Norian Yesayian, formerly of North Bergen, New Jersey, Winchester, Massachusetts, Detroit, Michigan, and recently of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died on April 24, 1988. Private burial services were held in Winchestr, Mass., followed by memorial services, attended by family and friends, at the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, Mass. Fulfilling her wishes, the Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian of the Armenian Congregational Church, Southfield, Michigan, conducted the services and gave an eloquent eulogy.

Merin was the beloved mother of Elizabeth "Betty" Mouradian (deceased), Siran Birbas, Lillian Moranian, Grace Bakamjian, Mary

Ayvazian, Sona Norian (deceased); their husbands, Aram Mouradian (deceased), George Birbas, Thomas Moranian, Barkev Bakamjian, John Ayvazian; she had seventeen grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Merin was born April, 1906, in Aintab, Turkey, the only child of Nouri and Jemile Kharajjian. She came to the Boston area in 1923 as a bride. In the years following she resided in several places settling finally in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Merin was a devoted mother, a loyal friend, a dedicated church member, a hospitable and gracious hostess, and an artist who shared her many talents. She was many things to many people but all knew her to be vivacious, loving and generous. She demonstrated throughout her lifetime the qualities of courage, devotion, and good will, but above all, an unwavering belief in the loving protection and goodness of God. She left memories of love, strength and sweetness. She was a lovely and loved person.

Merin always acknowledged that while she lived in comfort and security, there were Armenians who yet were not so fortunate. Thus, in her parents' names, she established the Nouri and Jemile Kharajjian Relief Fund with the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Friends may make gifts of remembrance to the fund, care of AMAA.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

- *Boyajian, Samuel
Providence, RI May 10, 1988
- *Shekerjian, Roberta Peters, M.D.
Fresno, CA July 10, 1988
- *Close, Ruby
Fresno, CA August 6, 1988
- *Koundakjian, Isgouhy
Sarnia, Canada August 11, 1988
- *Banker, Aroosiag
Bay Village, OH August 23, 1988
- *Apelian Robert
Lansdown, PA August 28, 1988
- *Getoor, Elmon
Southfield, MI August 31, 1988
- *Ashjian, Mamigon
Englewood, NJ Sept. 4, 1988
- **Levonian, Levon
Troy, NY Sept. 5, 1988
- *Brennan Margaret
*Gazarian, Hampartsum
Ormond Beach, FL

*Memorials were designated for AMAA.
**Bequests assigned to AMAA.

THE BENEFITS OF PLANNING YOUR YEAR END GIFTS

Wise planning today can result in a significant gift from Uncle Sam when you pay your taxes.

Our government encourages charitable giving by providing a variety of tax benefits when you make a gift to a qualified charitable organization, such as the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Your gift may be made in a number of ways—depending on your particular situation. And careful planning is the key to maximizing your benefits.

The following may be helpful as you consider the best way to make your year end gift.

Cash.

Cash is the most popular way to make charitable gifts. And your gift of cash to the AMAA prior to December 31 could cost you much less at tax filing time.

For example, if you make a \$2,000 gift to the AMAA before December 31 and are in the 28% tax bracket, your gift could save you \$560 in taxes.

The federal government recognizes the contribution non-profit organizations make to society and helps in making the gift through tax deductions.

Securities.

Gifts of appreciated securities or stock can be one of the most advantageous ways of giving. If your gift of stock is one you have owned for more than one year, you may deduct the full fair market value of the stock as a charitable contribution, while bypassing all capital gain taxes.

Real Estate.

Gifts of appreciated real estate are like gifts of appreciated stock. Assuming you have owned the property for more than one year, you may deduct as a charitable contribution the fair market value of real estate while avoiding all capital gain taxes.

Insurance.

Life insurance is a unique way to give to charity. To qualify, the charity needs to become the owner and beneficiary. No incidence of ownership should be retained.

If the policy is paid up, your charitable contribution is generally the replacement value or cost basis of the policy, whichever is less.

Unitrust.

The unitrust provides a unique way to give—offering substantial tax savings while providing an annual income to you or your family.

The unitrust is funded with an asset—appreciated property or securities are usually best. Within the unitrust, the assets can be sold and the proceeds reinvested to produce a greater yield for the donor(s) or beneficiary(s).

Immediate benefits of a unitrust include:

1. A current income tax deduction
2. Bypass of capital gain taxes when sold
3. Usually an increase in income

There are also several future benefits.

Annuity Trust.

Like the unitrust, the donor qualifies for important tax benefits and an annual income stream. The major difference is that the annuity trust pays a fixed dollar amount based on the trust's initial value. The fixed dollar amount cannot be less than 5% of the trust's initial value.

A Christian and An American Tradition

Charitable gifting is both a Christian and an American tradition. Through current tax laws our government encourages you to express your charitable support. Through careful planning you can: identify the method for making a contribution which best fits your situation; and maximize the impact of your gift on the charitable organizations you support.

We will be pleased to provide you with more information and assist in any way, as you consider the possibilities for your year end gifts.

Our assistance is provided without cost or obligation and is completely confidential.

Planned Giving Department

Armenian Missionary Association of America

140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652

Phone: (201) 265-2607; 265-2608

This information is printed solely for educational purposes. For specific recommendations, each person should consult his or her own qualified professional advisor.

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